

The ACP Wisconsin Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee has prepared issue guides on ACP health policy positions

What is safe firearm storage?

Safe storage of firearms involves keeping them unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition. Safe storage is a fundamental responsibility of firearm ownership.

Why is safe firearm storage important for health?

Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children, surpassing both cancer and car crashes.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2789269>

Estimates suggest that even modest increases in the number of American homes safely storing firearms could prevent almost a third of youth gun deaths.

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/child-access-prevention-and-safe-storage/>

One study showed that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with an 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens, compared to households that locked neither.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/200330>

Firearm access triples suicide risk. The majority of suicides - 59% - occur by firearm. The decision to act on a suicidal impulse can be fast, so making firearms hard to access in a moment of crisis can prevent death.

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-violence-statistics/>

How can clinicians promote safe firearm storage?



Start the conversation:

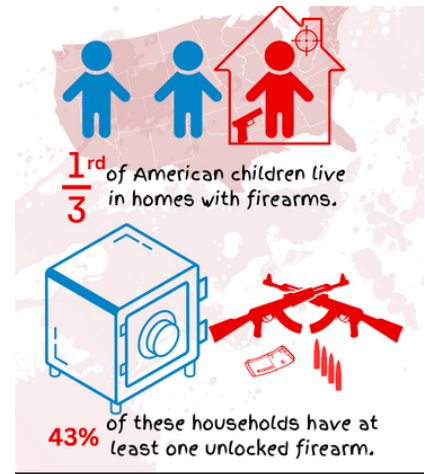
Many families have firearms in their home, so I ask all my patients about firearm ownership.

Connect through shared values and maintain respect

I know responsible firearm ownership and use are important to my patients. May I ask how you store your firearms?

Counsel harm reduction

Safe firearm storage can help protect you and your family from unintentional injuries. May I share information on safer storage tools and resources?



Safe firearm storage can reduce firearm death and injury

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Take the pledge to ask patients about firearm safety

ACP advocates for a public health approach and common-sense measures to reduce firearm injury. The Pledge is an ongoing initiative for clinicians to commit to having these conversations with patients.

Annals of Internal Medicine[®]

MY COMMITMENT: When risk factors for harm to my patients or others are present, I will ask my patients about firearm ownership and safety.



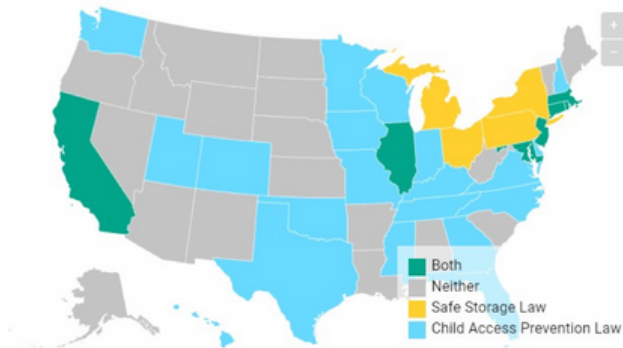
State Laws can promote safe storage

In the 2023-24 Wisconsin legislative session, **ACP-Wisconsin supported bills called “The Gun Shop Project”** to promote and fund voluntary safe storage at gun shops for people at risk of suicide, a project that has demonstrated success with veterans. While these bills had bipartisan support, they did not advance to become law.

Wisconsin **does** have a Child Access Prevention (CAP) law, which holds individuals criminally liable if a child under age 14 gains access to a loaded firearm and causes harm or brings it into a public space.

Wisconsin **does not** have a comprehensive Safe Storage Law, therefore there are no statewide mandates for how firearms should be stored to prevent unauthorized access.

A Breakdown Of Safe Storage Laws



Map: Adhiti Bandlamudi • Source: Giffords Law Center • Get the data

Safe firearm storage can reduce firearm death and injury